

Serial Nr.: 10/671,994
Art Unit: 2832

03206-URS

REMARKS

In the Office Action, claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 as being indefinite, claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Hapke et al., claims 1 and 4-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Ackland, and claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ackland in view of Malnati.

In response, claims 1-6 are cancelled and new claims 7 and 8 are presented to clearly define the invention and to distinctly claim the subject matter in a patentable way. More specifically, the independent claim 7 now includes the limitations of said activation member having an upper horizontal portion and a lower horizontal portion connected by an inclined portion substantially matched with said inclined portion of said push member and said inclined portion of said distal end is engaged with said inclined portion of said activation member and said upper horizontal portion of said activation member is lowered to activate said switch when said distal end of said push member is pressed on said lower horizontal portion of said activation member through said upper through hole that are neither taught nor suggested by the cited prior arts.

Hapke et al. teach a washing machine lid switch assembly for disabling a top loading washing machine when the lid is raised. An arcuate arm pressing downward from the lid near the hinge of the lid curve around the hinge axis into a space behind the lid under the top surface of the washing machine. A switch positioned above this top surface

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and having a downwardly extending operator may be actuated by this arm. As can be seen from FIG. 2 of Hapke et al., the physical structure of the lid switch assembly is completely different from the switch assembly of this invention. In particular, the lid switch does not have an activate member which has an upper horizontal member and a lower horizontal member connected by an inclined portion that matches substantially with an inclined portion of a push member. Furthermore, the fact that inclined portion of the push member is engaged with the inclined portion that connects the upper and lower horizontal members of the instant invention is neither anticipated nor suggested by Hapke et al. Therefore, the new independent claim 7 should have overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Hapke et al.

Ackland teaches a lid switch actuator that converts longitudinal motion in a first axis to longitudinal motion in a second axis. A push-rod having an inclined plane is engaged by a probe to longitudinally move in the first axis when the probe moves longitudinally in the second axis. As can be seen from Figs. 1-4 of Ackland, the physical structure is also very different from the instant invention. Ackland does not teach an activate member which has an upper horizontal member and a lower horizontal member connected by an "inclined portion" that matches substantially and is engaged with an inclined portion of the push member. Applicant respectfully submits that the new independent claim 7 should be allowable under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Ackland.

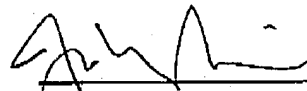
From the foregoing discussion, it is clear that the instant invention differs from the

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cited prior arts. The physical difference results in different effects and is not obvious. The new independent claim 7 has overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and should be patentable. By virtue of dependency, claim 8 should also be patentable. The specification has been amended to correct a few editorial and grammatical errors. Prompt and favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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